

Remarks

This amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed on May 4, 2005. Applicant respectfully notes that the Office Action acknowledges only twenty-one (21) pending claims when, in fact, there are twenty-two (22) pending claims. The following remarks will address the rejections, as if claim 22 were included in each substantive rejection. Claims 5, 6, 9, 11, 16, 17, 19, and 21 are being amended. In view of the following remarks and above amendments, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-22.

In the Office Action, claims 5, 6, 9, 16, 17, and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 5, 9, 16, and 19 are being amended to recite a “lubrication groove” which has antecedent basis in the independent claim from which these dependent claims depend. Claims 6 and 17 are being amended to correct a typographical error which deprived the limitation of “radially inwardly opening groove” of an antecedent basis. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Peterson (U.S. Pat. No. 1,973,994) in view of Diedrich (U.S. Pat. No. 5,080,502). Peterson discloses an inner ring member and an outer ring member defining a raceway space therebetween. A roller disposed in the raceway space includes including a concave radial race surface interposed between axially spaced radial race surfaces. The outer ring member includes a single outer race surface engaging both of the axially spaced radial race surfaces of the roller.

Independent claims 1, 12, and 22 include the limitations of an outer ring member encircling an inner ring member and defining a raceway space therebetween. The outer ring member includes at least two axially spaced outer race surfaces defining a lubrication groove therebetween. A plurality of rollers are disposed in the raceway space, and each of the rollers include a concave radial race surface interposed between axially spaced radial race surfaces. Each of the axially spaced radial race surfaces engage one of the axially spaced outer race

surfaces of the outer ring member.

Contrary to the assertion in the Office Action, Peterson does not disclose or suggest an outer ring member including at least two axially spaced outer race surfaces defining a lubrication groove therebetween, as required in claims 1, 12, and 22. The outer ring member outer race surface disclosed in Peterson is a single surface 15a having no structure capable of defining a lubrication groove.

Diedrich discloses an outer bearing member having two axially spaced outer race surfaces. However, the outer race surfaces of Diedrich fail to define a lubrication groove therebetween. Therefore, Diedrich fails to satisfy the deficiencies of Peterson. Moreover, each outer ring member outer race surface disclosed in Diedrich engages a separate roller, and not roller surfaces of the same roller, as required in the claims of the present application.

As discussed above, the combination of Peterson and Dietrich fail to teach each and every element of claims 1, 12, and 22 of the present application. Claims 2-11 and 13-21 depend from one of claims 1 and 12, which along with claim 22 are believed allowable. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for being unpatentable over Peterson in view of Diedrich is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ai (U.S. Pat. No. 6,354,745) in view of Diedrich. Ai discloses an inner ring member and an outer ring member defining a raceway space therebetween. A roller disposed in the raceway space includes including a cylindrical radial race surface interposed between axially spaced radial race surfaces. The outer ring member includes a single concave outer race surface engaging both of the axially spaced radial race surfaces of the roller.

As in Peterson and contrary to the assertion in the Office Action, Ai does not disclose or suggest an outer ring member including at least two axially spaced outer race surfaces defining a lubrication groove therebetween. The outer ring member outer race surface disclosed in Ai is a single concave surface 16 which has no structure capable of defining a lubrication groove. As in Peterson discussed above, Diedrich fails to satisfy the deficiencies of Ai.

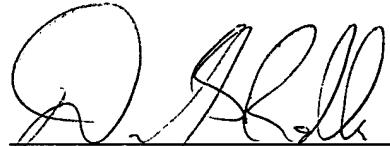
The combination of Ai and Dietrich fail to teach each and every element of claims 1, 12, and 22 of the present application, as discussed above. Claims 2-11 and 13-21 depend

from one of claims 1 and 12, which along with claim 22 are believed allowable. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for being unpatentable over Ai in view of Diedrich is respectfully requested.

Claims 11 and 21 are also being amended to correct a typographical error.

In view of the above remarks and amendment to claims 5, 6, 9, 11, 16, 17, 19, and 21, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-22. No additional fees for filing this response are believed to be due. However, if such fees are due, including any fees for an extension of time to respond, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge them to deposit account no. 17-0055.

Respectfully submitted,



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